

MY UNCLE ANT

by

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COLD OPEN

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

ROCHELLE WRIGHT (35) sketches on large sheets at her drawing table. The living room is an open floor plan where we can see a tucked away kitchen and staircases leading up and down.

Rochelle peels off a drawing and tosses it to the floor.

PENNY WRIGHT (35), carrying burning sage, bolts in just in time to catch Rochelle litter the floor.

PENNY

Hey! Can't you see I just cleaned this place up?

ROCHELLE

It was your idea that I work from home more often.

PENNY

You have to destroy our dream house in order to design someone else's?

ROCHELLE

(regarding the sage)
So you can smoke in here but I can't make a little mess?

PENNY

My sage? It cleanses the energy.

They hug and give each other a love peck.

ROCHELLE

I can go work at the office?

PENNY

No, I want you to be here when my brother arrives. And it's so great with you around to help with Clara.

ROCHELLE

Have you told her the news about Uncle Tony yet?

PENNY

I haven't had the nerve! You know how she gets.

(frustrated)

Oh, I'm such a bad Mom!

ROCHELLE

After myself, you're the best Mom
and you know it.

PENNY

We are the best Mom.

ROCHELLE

C'mon. Let's go give Clara the news
about Tony living with us for
awhile.

PENNY

Wait. Wasn't Clara in here with
you?

ROCHELLE

No. She was with you!

CLARA (O.S.)

You guys are the worst moms!

CLARA (10), emerges from a mound of tossed-aside,
architectural papers.

CLARA (CONT'D)

You told me we were gonna play hide
and seek.

Rochelle and Penny look horrified.

ROCHELLE

(to Penny)

I blame you! The stay at home Mom.

PENNY

You're the one who is supposed to
be here to help lighten my load.

CLARA

Hey! She told me she just couldn't
bear to be away from me for so long
all day everyday.

PENNY

Sweetie, she literally buried you
alive in her work.

CLARA

Can you guys just squabble later?
You're s'posed to be telling me
about Uncle Tony apparently.

Rochelle guides Penny by the shoulder and the three cross to sit at the sectional couch, center of the room.

ROCHELLE

Yes, Mom. Why don't we tell Clara about who Uncle is exactly and why he's the pertinent subject today?

PENNY

(hesitant)

Well. You see, Clara, an uncle is--

CLARA

--I know what an uncle is. I like uncles as long as it's not that creepy guy that was scratching himself on his arms at Easter last year.

PENNY

Hmmm. Well, sometimes an uncle is that creepy guy that smashes Easter eggs to try to find the secret RFID chips that are spying on him.

ROCHELLE

That was your uncle Tony. Great memory, Young Lady.

CLARA

On the car ride home when you thought I was asleep you guys laughed and said "don't worry, she'll repress those memories".

PENNY

Well it's good you didn't sweetie, because this is a great lesson that people grow and change. Uncle Tony was in a bad place then, and now he's in a good one.

CLARA

He's not itchy like he was before?

ROCHELLE

Your uncle used to abuse drugs. Drugs can help people, but if we take too much or we take the wrong kind they are very bad.

CLARA

I know about drugs.

(to Penny)

(MORE)

CLARA (CONT'D)

Like the ones you keep under your
bathroom sink to help you hide your
beasts.

PENNY

Uh, I was speaking euphemistically,
and...

Penny uses her hand to estimate Clara's height.

PENNY (CONT'D)

...I think I'll need to be moving
my pills to the top cabinet.

(deep breath)

Those are drugs. But they're drugs
your Mommy needs, and I use them
responsibly.

ROCHELLE

Some people use drugs in a way that
seems fun at first. It makes them
feel good for a little while until
soon they feel very, very bad.

CLARA

(to Rochelle)

Like your adult grape juice?

PENNY

Worse. Drugs can make people feel
so bad they'll reenact the
crucifixion in a bunny costume.

Clara stares long and hard at her frustrated moms.

CLARA

You two are adorable when you try
to teach me a lesson. I know that
Uncle Tony had a drug problem, and
it sounds like he's better now. But
what does that have to do with me?

Penny and Rochelle look at each other and brace themselves.

PENNY

Uncle is going to come stay with
use for awhi--

CLARA

--NOOOOOOOOOO!

ROCHELLE

Just until he finds a job and gets
on his feet.

CLARA

No! We have everything perfect in our family!

PENNY

He is family! This will be great--

CLARA

--He'll be a bad influence on me!

ROCHELLE

We can be a good influence on him?

CLARA

But I'm the precious one, the blank slate, the carrier of your dynasty.

PENNY

You're growing up, honey. As we grow up we learn to compromise.

ROCHELLE

You are part of the whole, big world and things won't always organize perfectly around you.

CLARA

Not so fast! I'm only ten, when else is the world s'posed to be all about me?

Clara pouts. Penny grabs a framed picture off the side table and shows it to Clara. It's TONY, looking beefy, happy and healthy. He wears a distinctive bright blue hat in the photo.

PENNY

This was him before things went south. He lost his job and went down a bad road for awhile. But he'll look more like this guy soon.

ROCHELLE

Hubba-hubba, what a hunk. Maybe I wound up with the wrong sibling.

Penny playfully aims a look of disapproval at Rochelle then turns her attention back to Clara.

PENNY

You and Uncle Tony will have tons of fun together, just like me and him did when I was your age.

ROCHELLE

And he'll be a big help around here
for your moms too.

CLARA

Don't say it'll be good for me to
have a male influence. I'm a
feminist. Down with the patriarchy!

ROCHELLE

(to Penny)

I told you she was too young to
learn that word.

DING DONG -- the doorbell. Rochelle and Penny connect eyes.

PENNY

With more time we could talk this
through and appeal to your logic
but, darling, just remember you're
a kind person and this will be a
great lesson in adapting to change.

Clara turns up her lower lip and scowls.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Don't make this weird.

Rochelle and Penny stand and cross towards the door, dragging
a reluctant Clara along. At the door, Penny steels.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Ready, fam?

Penny opens the door.

Rochelle , Penny and Clara freeze, mouths agape, staring at
the man in the doorway.

TONY (O.S.)

Sis. It's me Tony.

REVEAL - **UNCLE TONY** (33) wears the distinctive baseball cap
from the photo but... he is now a six foot tall ant.

CLARA

This just got weird!

TONY

I need to tell you something.

Tony stands in the doorway, poised to tell his family just
how he became an ant.

TITLE SEQUENCE MONTAGE

- Tony stands in the doorway, sings to his family.

TONY (CONT'D)
(singing)
*I need to tell you something of how
this came to be.*

-Ant Tony strolls down a skid row street past HOMELESS PEOPLE to arrive at the old strung out on drugs version of himself.

TONY (CONT'D)
*I was at my highest and at my
lowest, sorry to be me.*

-A SCIENTIST leads Human Tony into the back of a van.

TONY (CONT'D)
*A doc showed up with promises of
aid.*

-Human Tony is wheeled into a surgical room by a NURSE. A monitor displays graphics of an ant and strands of DNA.

TONY (CONT'D)
*An experimental procedure to splice
ant and human DNA.*

-Doctor with clipboard points to charts, explains to Human Tony. An image depicts a small ant carrying a lump of sugar.

DOCTOR
*Ants are strong against addiction,
this procedure could wipe substance
abuse away.*

-Flashes of Human Tony going through the procedure. He CONTORTS and SCREAMS within a glowing machine as his body mutates.

TONY
*Things didn't go as planned, not
much else to say.*

-Doctor shows a sobbing Ant Tony his reflection in a mirror.

TONY (CONT'D)
*But I had signed all their
releases, so complain I can't.*

-On the couch, Tony sings to Clara, Penny and Rochelle.

TONY (CONT'D)
*And that's the story of how your
uncle became an ant.*

ACT I**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

The family, with Tony, sit across the sectional couch. Rochelle sits, mouth agape, while Penny looks concerned and Clara is curious.

TONY

And that's the story of how your uncle became an ant.

CLARA

He made it weird. Not me!

TONY

I hated it at first of course, but now that I'm getting used to it... being this kind of monster.

Tony points to himself.

TONY (CONT'D)

It's better than the monster I was.

CLARA

My moms hate ants. They scream and cry when they're in the house and then they spray them to death.

Rochelle TSKS.

ROCHELLE

I'm so sorry, Tony.

TONY

No, it's alright. I have been getting used to the reactions from people. I suppose you will have to as well, that is if my staying here for awhile is still okay.

PENNY

What?! Of course it is.

Tony puts his ant claw on his sisters hand.

TONY

Seriously. I don't intend to be any further burden. I've hurt you enough and worried you through all these years.

(MORE)

TONY (CONT'D)

While your open heart and open home is appreciated, my recovery and my path is my responsibility.

ROCHELLE

How about we take it just like you teetotallers say, "one day at a time".

PENNY

And just 'cause you're my kid brother, doesn't mean we'll be treating you with kid gloves.

TONY

Gloves? With these things?

Tony holds up his claws.

CLARA

They're trying to say you better pull your weight around here.

TONY

That's one thing I can definitely do.

Tony stands up and effortlessly lifts the coffee table, keeping all the knickknacks on top in perfect balance.

CLARA

Number one. I meant you need to find a job. And two. That was pretty cool.

ROCHELLE

Clara. You are going to be nice to your uncle and we have respect for one another in this house.

TONY

Oh, it's okay. And I'll find a job soon and otherwise be as little an imposition as possible.

(thinks)

In fact, one thing about this... change, is that I have such a strong urge to work. To serve! At the risk of sounding silly, I feel the need to serve my queen.

Tony indicates to his sister and sister-in-law.

TONY (CONT'D)
Heck, my queens!

PENNY
(to Tony)
Well. We'll show you your room, we
cleared out the basement to make it
nice and cozy.
(to Clara)
And my little young woman there,
you go finish your homework before
dinner.

Clara frights - *homework?!*

CLARA
Uh. Ah. Actually, maybe I can show
Uncle Tony his room? Y'know, so I
can practice respecting him.

Penny and Rochelle consider.

ROCHELLE
That sounds okay. But then you'll
be hitting the books.

CLARA
Oh yeah sure, of course. That's me
Ms. Studios.

Clara leads Tony off towards the staircase.

INT. TONY'S BEDROOM BASEMENT - DAY

Clean and well put together but clearly still a basement with
a washer and dryer, storage shelves and exposed pipes. A pull-
out couch and dresser are present for Tony.

Clara and Tony enter from the stairway.

CLARA
I used to be scared coming down
here.

TONY
Then you grew into a big girl?

CLARA
No, then I learned where my moms
keep the surplus candy bars.

TONY
(excited)
Candy?!

CLARA
Lemme show you.

Clara runs over to storage shelf and pulls two chocolate bars from an old box of laundry soap, handing one to Tony.

The two dive in, Tony chomps on the sweet. MMMMMMMMM

CLARA (CONT'D)
You're crazy about sugar now since you became an ant, right?

TONY
Actually I developed a sweet tooth when I was a strung out on meth. Nothing goes with sprack quite like Sour Patch Kids and Mountain Dew.

Chocolate all over her face, Clara scarfs down.

CLARA
I have too much self control to ever try drugs.

TONY
Never say never. Life will be hard, and life will be sad sometimes. I went wrong thinking I deserved to be happy all the time and perpetually chased that feeling.

CLARA
I'm happy most times. I'm kind of jealous of depressed people. They seem more... real.

Tony considers his response.

TONY
You have all your life ahead of you, and it will get very real, very fast.

CLARA
I hope so.

TONY
The best advice I can give you is, learn to delay gratification.

Clara looks confused.

TONY (CONT'D)

Work today for an outcome tomorrow,
the next day or the next month
instead of something that is easier
or fun today.

CLARA

Sounds like a confusing way to say,
"do your homework".

TONY

Oh, that's right your homework.

Clara changes the subject.

CLARA

So yeah, what do you think of these
digs?

TONY

Not bad, certainly better than some
of the flop houses I've seen.
Besides, with my tough exoskeleton
I'm pretty much always comfortable
now.

Tony KNOCKS on his hip - CLUNK CLUNK.

CLARA

(pouting)

This was going to be a super
special playroom for me. My moms
promised me lotsa times but they
never got around to it.

Tony sits down on an old chair to see eye-to-eye with Clara.

TONY

I won't overstay my welcome, and
before I leave I'll make sure we
turn this into the best playroom
ever, okay?

CLARA

Really? You would do that for me?

TONY

Like I said, I want to serve my
queens.

CLARA

Wow! Not just my moms? I can be a queen too?

TONY

How about Princess instead? That'll be special just for you.

CLARA

Oh boy! I'm a princess.

Tony motions to playfully tussle Clara's hair but forgetting he has a sticky claw, a tuft of hair rips out into his hand.

CLARA (CONT'D)

OUCH!

Tony GASPS as Clara grabs her head.

INT. KITCHEN AREA - SAME

Rochelle tosses a salad and Penny grills veggies around the kitchen island.

ROCHELLE

Do you think Tony is going to like this?

PENNY

Tony will eat anything.

ROCHELLE

Or smoke, or snort, or shoot.

PENNY

Hey, that's mean.

ROCHELLE

I'm sorry, I'm sorry. But he has led quite a different life than us.

PENNY

Well, a lot of people are vegan now.

ROCHELLE

You know what I meant. Do ants eat this stuff?

PENNY

You've been supportive and I love you for it. But you forget I'm an empath.

(MORE)

PENNY (CONT'D)

I know you aren't exactly excited about Tony coming to stay for awhile. Maybe, might you be looking for problems where there aren't any?

ROCHELLE

(annoyed)

Okay miss telepath, what am I thinking now?

Rochelle scrunches her face to aim a mean thought at Penny. Penny breaks the tension by giving Rochelle a kiss.

PENNY

I'm empathic, not telepathic. It means I know a kiss will always chill you out.

ROCHELLE

Ah. I forgot the dictionary definition of empathic is "emotional extortion".

Penny playfully swipes Rochelle's arm.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)

I love your willful, blissful optimism... but your brother's a six foot tall ant. Let me express an ounce of my repressed anxiety ridden nature.

Penny stuffs a grilled carrot into Rochelle's mouth.

INT. TONY'S BEDROOM BASEMENT - SAME

CLARA

Princess, huh? So... you pretty much have to do what I say.

TONY

(laughs)

No. It's not like that.

(considers)

Well. Maybe. I do feel an incredible sense to comply with just about anything you might tell me. I am still getting used to this selflessness thing.

CLARA

Want to test your obedience?

TONY
(chuckles)
I don't know if that's a good idea.

CLARA
We will test your loyalty now,
Uncle Tony.

TONY
Sure thing.

CLARA
You're going to come with me to
school tomorrow to help me cheat on
a test.

TONY
Clara! That's immoral. It's wrong.
That's just plain not in the best
interest of your education!

CLARA
So you won't obey me?

TONY
No, I'll help you cheat on a test.

CLARA
And you won't tattletale to Mom.

TONY
Darn, I was planning on doing that
but since you asked me not to I
suppose I can't.

Tony CLICKS his labial palp in frustration.

INT. DINING AREA - NIGHT

The family eats at the dinner table.

TONY
So are you guys vegan?

Rochelle shoots Penny an "I told you so" look.

PENNY
For the most part we're a vegan,
cruelty free household, though we
have fish and candy sometimes.

Clara and Tony share a conspiratorial glance.

TONY
Like flexitarian? Pescatarian?

CLARA
We don't do labels, Uncle Tony.

ROCHELLE
Will that be a problem? Do you have special dietary needs?

TONY
No, I'm easy. I can eat just about anything.

Penny shoots Rochelle an "I told you so" look.

TONY (CONT'D)
Not to use labels but I consider myself something of an "opportunistic-atarian".

The others look confused.

TONY (CONT'D)
That means I'll eat any food that's free.

Rochelle and Penny smile politely.

TONY (CONT'D)
But I'm no freeloader. I promise I'll be finding a job real soon.

PENNY
Take your time, brother.

ROCHELLE
Let yourself settle in.

Tony smiles.

TONY
Okay.

Under the table, Clara KICKS Tony's gaster sack.

TONY (CONT'D)
Ow!... I mean, oh I still want to hit the pavement and drum up some work tomorrow morning!

They eat in silence for a moment.

TONY (CONT'D)
I'm just so anxious to get to work!

CLARA
You can start by doing the dishes
tonight.

ROCHELLE
No Clara, that's your chore.

Clara leans in to whisper to Tony.

CLARA
We'll talk.

Clara winks at her uncle, Tony smiles back.

ACT II**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

AHHHHHHH

Rochelle clutches her architectural drawings and SCREAMS.

Clara and Penny run in from downstairs, Tony from downstairs.

PENNY

What?! What's wrong.

ROCHELLE

All my work!

Rochelle holds up her illustration.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)

Look! It's ruined!

TONY

Oh. That was me. I couldn't sleep last night and thought I could help with your work.

ROCHELLE

Help me?!

TONY

I know I haven;t built trust with you yet, Rochelle, and I wanted to make a nice gesture.

PENNY

Tony. She has a graduate degree and spent her entire adult life devoted to illustration and architecture. What makes you think you can just understand and do better than a professional architect?

TONY

I tried to bone up on codes and the specs of the project but you're right, I don't know what gave me the gall and outright hubris to think I knew better than you.

Clara examines the drawing.

CLARA

I think it looks pretty neat! I like the rooms underground and stuff.

TONY

By moving some of the parking up in the structure I made room for subterranean quarters and was able to add more total units.

ROCHELLE

Tony, I'm glad you were inspired and excited but you can't just interfere with my work. My desk here is now off limits!

CLARA

Aw, does that go for me to? It's the best place to do my watercolors at.

ROCHELLE

Clara, you've been banned from my desk since the Great Finger-Painting Affair of 2015.

CLARA

Oh yeah. I forgot.

Penny stares off into space at the reminder.

PENNY

We will never forget.

ROCHELLE

Well, I will be going into the office today. I'll need complete focus since I need to undo all of this...

(indicates to the drawing)
... and redo all of my work.

Rochelle rolls up her illustrations and gets her briefcase together.

TONY

I'm so sorry.

ROCHELLE

You meant well, Tony.

Rochelle kisses Penny and pecks the top of Clara's head then hurriedly hustles out.

PENNY CLARA
Bye, Hun, have a nice day. Bye, Mom.

TONY
Gee. I really messed that up.

Tony pouts, turns his back to Clara and Penny.

PENNY
Oh, Brother. You've always wanted everyone to like you. But you don't need to do anything extraordinary to fit in.

Tony turns around.

TONY
Yeah? You think it'll be easy for me to fit in?

PENNY
Relax into yourself. It'll be easy for you to be liked.

Penny hugs Tony.

TONY
Thanks, Sis.

Penny grabs her backpack off the floor and spins towards the door.

CLARA
Whelp, guess I'll be moseying off myself now.

PENNY
Have a great day at school, Darling.

TONY
Yeah. Bye, Clara.

CLARA
Aren't you heading out too Uncle Tony? To look for a job.

Tony snaps to it.

TONY
That's right I am.

Tony follows on Clara's heels out the door.

TONY (CONT'D)
Bye, Penny. I'll just be off to
find a job now!

Tony and Clara exit, leaving Penny alone.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

MRS. CAULFIELD (55) presides over the class of TWENTY STUDENTS.

MRS. CAULFIELD
You'll have fifteen minutes to
complete the quiz. Correctly
identifying the country and capital
will earn a point each, while
proper spelling is worth a half-
point.

Clara and Tony step into the room.

CLARA
Sorry I'm late. We got lost
following an ant scent trail all
the way to downtown.

The kids all turn their heads and GASP at the sight of Tony.

DEEP-VOICED KID
Cool! Clara brought a creature.

MRS. CAULFIELD
Clara?! This is your ant?

CLARA
No, he's my uncle.

TONY
Hi professor, I'm Tony Wright.

MRS. CAULFIELD
That's wonderful for you Mr. Uncle
Ant Tony Wright. But, why Clara, is
he in our classroom?

CLARA
I brought him for show and tell.
(Clara glares at Tony)
Isn't that right, Uncle?

TONY
Yes, that's right.

MRS. CAULFIELD
Young Lady, show and tell is
tomorrow, today is the quiz.

CLARA
The quiz?! I must have got some
wires crossed. Silly me.

Clara takes Tony's hand and leads him to sit at two adjacent
desks.

CLARA (CONT'D)
But good thing I studied all
weekend. We'll just grab a seat, a
sharp number two and dig right into
that test.

Mrs. Caulfield COUGHS - AHEM.

CLARA (CONT'D)
And where do you think you're
going, Sir?

TONY
Me?

CLARA
Him? He needs to stay with me until
school's over as he's fresh out of
an outpatient program and in a
fragile emotional state.

MRS. CAULFIELD
There are no guests allowed in the
classroom.

CLARA
But--

MRS. CAULFIELD
-- There are no un-screened adults
allowed on school grounds!

CLARA
But--

MRS. CAULFIELD
-- and ants and pests are not
welcome to roam freely through
wherever they please.

The students GASP.

CLARA
That's what this is about! Do you
really want to discriminate against
my uncle, just because he's an ant?

Clara points to a STUDENT recording cell phone video. Other
kids start pulling out phones.

Mrs. Caulfield flusters.

MRS. CAULFIELD
(concerned)
The classroom is a place for
diversity and empathy towards
others. We of course welcome your
uncle, a humongous anthropomorphic
insect, as guest for today.

Clara grins at Tony.

Mrs. Caulfield regains composure.

MRS. CAULFIELD (CONT'D)
Let's settle down all and the quiz
will begin...

Mrs. Caulfield sits down at her desk.

MRS. CAULFIELD (CONT'D)
...Now.

The students flip over their quizzes and dive in.

Mrs. Caulfield looks up at Tony.

Tony looks at the teacher and CLICKS his mandible.

Mrs. Caulfield reacts and buries her face in a magazine.

CLARA
(whispers at Tony)
Okay, play it cool just like we
practiced.

Tony nods, but glances to his side.

An ant farm sits on a bookshelf, a colony of ants hustle
about inside.

Tony reacts - *a sense of sorrow for the trapped insects.*

Clara and Tony continue to whisper at one another. Clara points on her test.

CLARA (CONT'D)

Here.

TONY

Uh. Saudi Arabia. Medina.

Tony stares at the ants.

Clara points.

CLARA

This one.

TONY

Alabama. Birmingham.

Clara writes, points to another part of the test.

CLARA

Here.

An ant struggles on its back in the ant farm.

Tony frets.

TONY

That's uh, Sudan. Ababa.

Clara smiles and furiously writes.

ACT III**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

A few candles are alight, Penny washes crystals in a ceremonial water basin.

Clara BARGES in, SLAMMING the front door behind her. Clara falls into the couch, crosses her arms and pouts.

PENNY

Hey! I'm cleansing my crystals. Go back out and come back in with serene energy only.

CLARA

No. I don't wanna.

Penny submerges her crystal then sits to comfort Clara.

PENNY

Well, what is it? What's the matter, Hun?

CLARA

Uncle Tony ruined my test and I got a "not pass".

PENNY

What? How could he do that?

CLARA

Aw, I took him to school to help me cheat and he gave me all the wrong answers.

PENNY

Cheating? Clara, how could you? Your mom and I always made it expressly clear that one has to be true and honest in the way she comports herself.

CLARA

Well I was honest about cheating wasn't I?

PENNY

Where is your uncle now?

CLARA

I don't care.

The door opens - Rochelle guides Tony into the room.

ROCHELLE

Look who I found just pouting out
on the porch.

PENNY

Tony, Clara told me you helped her
cheat on a test.

TONY

Yeah. But I didn't do a very good
job of it.

ROCHELLE

Tony? Why?

TONY

She asked me to help cheat, she
never asked if I was good with
geography.

CLARA

Spoiler alert, he's not.

Everyone takes a seat at the couch.

PENNY

Roche' meant, why would you help
her cheat?

TONY

She asked me to. I want to help. I
want to serve my princess.

Tony looks at Clara.

Clara softens.

ROCHELLE

You think this comes from your
obligation to serve us?

Tony shrugs.

PENNY

Doing good work and trying hard
doesn't necessarily mean doing just
whatever other people want. You'll
have to be strong to know what is
truly the best act of service.

ROCHELLE

So use your best adult judgement next time, Tony. This queen says so.

TONY

Sure thing, Rochelle. Thanks for being so patient with me.

ROCHELLE

Of course. You're family.

Rochelle pulls out her architectural drawing.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)

Besides. I need you around for inspiration. My boss saw some of your ideas and she loved the idea of underground units.

The others get excited.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)

It turns out it would greatly increase the overall energy-efficiency of the building and be a big selling point to the froufrou millennial market.

PENNY

(excited)

Maybe there's a job for Tony at your firm as a draftsman or something?

ROCHELLE

Are you kidding? His claw scratches and line work was messier than Clara's pre-school artwork. This still took hours to clean up... but you had a great idea, Tony.

Tony smiles.

TONY

Thanks. I'm glad I could help in some way.

PENNY

Now. Clara. Let's discuss the penalty for your cheating, lying and manipulating your uncle.

CLARA

Aw, man. Wasn't this a teachable moment enough?

ROCHELLE

You know the rules, Young Lady. When we do something wrong we make up for it.

CLARA

Okay. To make up for what I did I'll... do the dishes tonight.

ROCHELLE

That's already your chore.

CLARA

Fine. I'll clean the bathrooms.

PENNY

The bathrooms? I'm impressed, that's a tough one.

ROCHELLE

Your mom and I are going to start dinner. Why don't you show your uncle your games.

CLARA

Okay.

Rochelle and Penny kiss Clara on the head then exit. Clara grabs controllers and turns on the video game system.

TONY

Cool. Videogames. I haven't tried one of these in years.

Clara hands a controller to Tony.

CLARA

How are you with cleaning tile?

TONY

What?

CLARA

You're helping me clean the bathroom and loser has to scrub the showers.

Clara LAUGHS at her uncle as he reacts.

TAG**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Clara and Tony play UNO at the coffee table, Tony uses four of his hands to hold a great multitude of cards.

TONY
(overwhelmed)
Where'd you get the terrible idea
to add all the power cards from a
second deck?

CLARA
No one forced you to play.

TONY
That's right, you would never do
that, would you?

Tony winks at his niece.

Clara throws down a card and Tony is forced to draw four more cards.

TONY (CONT'D)
Darn it.

CLARA
Y'know, Uncle, I think you're
pretty cool.

TONY
And I think you're cool too.

CLARA
Don't worry, I'll help you stay on
my moms good side.

TONY
Hey, only honest, straight-laced
help, okay? Like doing your
studying? And other stuff that
helps you out later down the road,
instead of just now in the moment.

CLARA
Sheesh, that kinda boring help will
cost you. UNO!

Clara lays down her card.

DING DONG

CLARA (CONT'D)
I'll get it.

Tony looks shell shocked. Clara runs to the door.

Clara leads **DOCTOR** to the center of the room. Tony bolts up.

TONY
You! Why I never thought you'd have
the nerve to show your face around
me ever again.

DOCTOR
I am more sorry than you could ever
know. My heart pains for you and
the other subjects, what my
research did to you.

TONY
Yeah! Well you can take your sorry-
ness and beat a retreat. Kick
rocks, Pal!

Tony points to the door.

DOCTOR
There may be help... a new
treatment. A reversal.

TONY
What?

DOCTOR
Preliminary tests have yielded
excellent results.

CLARA
You mean you could make my uncle a
man again, Doc?

DOCTOR
Well something like that.

TONY
Just give it to me straight. What
are you saying?

DOCTOR
The reversal procedure will make
you human again.

TONY
Great! That's great right?

DOCTOR

It requires the excitement of certain cellular activity within the X chromosome that is far too complex when the Y chromosome becomes a factor. Complicating matters is that when you became an ant, your DNA effectively became that of a haploid variety. The reversal could work, just not on a level such that your original heterogametic integrity would be preserved.

TONY

Huh?

DOCTOR

You'd be a female human.

Tony pulls his antenna in frustration.

CLARA

You mean my ant Uncle Tony could become my uncle Aunt Tony!?

The doctor nods to the affirmative.

THE END